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Lately printed and delivered to several Members of this Honourable House, by

**Mr. William Dockwra**

Merchant, Concerning the

**PENNY-POST.**


*By a Statute 12. Car. 2. Cap. 35. 8.*

**I***t is Enacted, &c. That no Person or Persons whatsoever, or Body Politick or Corporate, other than the Post-Master-General, and his Deputy and Deputies, shall presume to Carry, Re-carry, and Deliver Letters for Hire, or to Set up and Employ any Foot-Post, whatsoever, for the Conveyance, Carrying and Recarrying of any Letters, or Pacquets, within his Majesties Dominions, upon Pain of Forfeiting the Summe of Five pounds of English Money, for every several Offence against the Tenor of this present Act, and also of the Forfeiture of the Summe of 100 l. of like English Money for every Weeks time that any Offender against the Act shall Employ, Maintain and Continue any such Foot-Post, as aforesaid; which said several and respective Forfeitures shall and may be Sued for, &c.*

The *PENNY-POST*, pretended by Mr. Dockwra to be a new Invention, is so far from being such, that it will be made manifest, that a Scheme thereof was drawn near Twenty years agoe, from the Methods of the Post-Office; and was under the then Post-Master-General's Consideration.

That Mr. Dockwra was so far from having any Order from the King, the Duke, or the Post-Master-General, for reducing into practice the *PENNY-POST*, that (the Methods as proposed by him. being found to invade the Rights of the Post-Office-General, and to be destructive to it) he received a particular Command to the contrary, long before any Action brought.

That Mr. Dockwra and Mr. Murray his Partner, were Sued upon the said Statute, for setting up the *PENNY-POST*, in defiance of the Law and in opposition to the then Government, and the particular Command aforesaid, in Two several Actions, one of which was Tried at the King's-Bench Bar; and though the Penalties of the Act for the time they had practiced it amounted to above 5000 l. yet only 100 l. was found, against Mr. Dockwra at the desire of the King's Counsel, and that was forgiven, in regard the King had no other Design than to have his Right asserted by Law, and no farther proceedings were in the Action against Mr. Murray.

The *PENNY-POST* is not as Mr. Dockwra's Paper sets forth, quite different and inconsistent with the practice of the General-Post-Office, but on the contrary, upon Examination, will be found agreeable in all its branches, and in the practice and management thereof hath, and unavoidably must have, daily intercourse with the General-Post-Office (and although the Offices are kept apart for Conveniency, yet a *PENNY-POST* Sorter is allowed a place in the General Office to take Charge of all Country Letters, to be delivered within the Limits of the *PENNY-POST*, as well as of those Collected) and is in all respects as much under the direction of the Post-Master-General, as the Post-Office it self: The agreeableness of the practice and methods of both Offices is as followeth.



# General-Post.

*A Post-Office-General Established  
in Lombard-street.*

**S**everal Stage Towns appointed in the Country above Ten or Twelve Miles distance, where all Letters, within, or near that Stage, are left to be dispersed.

That in every Stage Town, there is a Deputy Post-master, who sorts all the Letters that comes to his hands within that Stage, and sends them out to be delivered according to their several Directions. And in London, all Letters that are brought to the Office, are there sorted by the several Clerks of the Roads, and delivered to the several Letter-Carriers, who deliver the same according to their respective Directions.

That there are particular Bags that are carried in the Maile, belonging to every Stage, which are left by the Post-Boy, at every Stage, or Post-Town upon the Road, to which they severally belong, and so to all Post-Towns and Stages, till he comes to the end of the Road.

Several Traders and Shopkeepers are appointed by the Post-master-General, or his Deputy, for receiving and taking in of all Letters that are brought them, to what Places soever directed, and have Salaries for the same.

Messengers are appointed by the Post-master-General, or his Deputy, to carry such Letters to the Post-Office-General, from all Parts of the City and Liberties.

That Letter-Receiver is accountable to the Post-master-General for all Letters, for which they receive Postage.

That every Letter-Carrier hath his particular Walk for the delivery of Letters that come to his hands.

That all Post-Letters are stamped with the Post-Office Stamp, viz. the Day of the Month, when each Letter comes into the Office.

That all Post-Boys ride with Horns.

By all which it doth appear, That the pretended Invention of Mr. Dockwra, is no more than the Practice of the General Post all England over, in little, for London: And that all Advantages, Schemes, and Methods for carrying Letters for Hire, is by the Act it self, the proper Work of the Post-master-General, or his Deputy, in the Right of their Majesties, to reduce into practice, when, and as he shall judge most proper for their Majesties Service, so that the Rape (if any be) was committed by Mr. Dockwra, who is only a private Merchant, and set it up contrary to Law.

It is therefore humbly Hoped, That since the Penny-Post is, by Judgment in Law, in King Charles the Second's time, Declared a part of the Post-Office-General, which was by a particular Act of Parliament in the late King James his time, Consolidated in the Crown, this House will not be for putting it into a private Hand.

# Penny-Post.

*A Penny-Post-Office Established in  
Cornhill.*

**S**everal Sorting Houses appointed in London Westminster, Southwark, and Hermitage, where all Letters within, or near those Houses, are left to be dispersed.

That in every of the said Sorting-Houses, there is a Clerk, who is a Sorter, who sorts all the Letters that are brought to his hands, and gives them to Messengers, who are called Deliverers, who deliver the said Letters, according to their respective Directions.

That there are particular Bags that are carried to every Office or Sorting-House, whereto they belong from the General Penny-Post-Office, to the Sorting-Houses aforesaid, which is performed every hour, and the Letters in each of these Precincts delivered immediately.

Several Traders and Shopkeepers are appointed by the Comptroler of the Penny-Post, for receiving and taking in of all Letters that are brought to them, to what place soever directed, and have Allowances for the same.

Messengers are appointed by the Comptroler of the Penny-Post, to carry such Letters from the Receiving-Houses, to the Sorting-Houses, or Offices.

That Letter-Receiver is accountable to the Comptroler of the Penny-Post, for all Letters which they receive, viz. one Penny for each Letter.

That every Messenger hath his particular Walk for the delivery of Letters that come to his hands.

That all Penny-Post-Letters are stamped with the Penny-Post-Stamp, viz. the Day, and Hour of the Day, when each Letter comes into the Office.

And so do the Penny-Post-Messengers out of London.